

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF WOKING

Annual
REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER

1950

The Urban District Council of Woking

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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COUNCILLOR G. B. SHAW

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR THE HON. F. L. CAWLEY

The Chairman of the Council:

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

N. HOOD LINZEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Lond.)

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Officer:

A. G. DAVIES, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors:

H. W. MONKS

J. D. SMITH
(Commenced 11.4.50)

A. E. CANOVAN
(Commenced 11.4.50)

Clerical Staff:

R. A. GREEN

MISS P. M. JONES

G. E. BLACKLOCK

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for 1950

*Public Health Department,
Council Offices, Guildford Road, Woking.
5th September, 1951*

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I wish to present my 24th Annual Report of Woking for the year 1950. The Ministry of Health has laid down certain procedures which are to be adopted, with the consequent result that some paragraphs and nomenclature of diseases have been altered and may cause a little misunderstanding when referring to the tables for 1950 and comparing them with those of previous years.

The figure of population given by the Registrar General is 48,650, an increase of 2,520, and on this figure all the vital statistics are based. The character of Woking is gradually changing from a residential town with large houses to one of smaller houses, which seems to be in keeping with the times. Although Woking is still a residential area there is a gradual establishment of small factories.

The year in question does not show any increase in infectious diseases.

The number of live births was 635, giving a birth rate of 13·55, as compared with 657 live births and a birth rate of 14·89 in 1949. The decline may be attributed to shortage of housing accommodation and other economic factors.

Deaths amounted to 524, with a rate of 10·30, as compared with 488 and a death rate of 9·73 in 1949.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for 1950 was 22·29 as compared with 24·74 for the previous year. The natural increment is 111.

Housing

The number of houses erected by the Local Authority was 167.

Houses built by private enterprise was 31. Twenty-seven property conversions were made providing 65 family units. In spite of this many people are living in what is, from the health standpoint, an overcrowded state, and others are forced to share accommodation, particularly in the case of bathrooms, W.C.s and kitchens, which leads to unnecessary friction.

The number of letters received pointing out the lack of care of old people in 1950 was three. Fortunately no legal action was necessary in any case, and here I should like to remind the Council that there is room for improving the housing facilities and to get the old people more suitably housed and cared for.

Again I am indebted to all members of the staff for maintaining a high standard of efficiency in carrying out the varied functions of the Department.

N. HOOD LINZEE,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres), 15,712.

Estimate of Resident Population, Mid-year 1950, 48,650.

Year	Houses	Population	Average No. per House
1891	1,584	9,776	6·2
1901	2,807	16,222	5·8
1911	4,072	24,808	6·0
1921	5,078	26,430	5·8
1931	6,853	29,950	4·4
1941	10,743	47,770	4·4
1950	11,716	48,650	4·2

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950) according to rate books, 11,716.

Rateable Value, £478,171.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £1,910.

Social Conditions

Woking is a residential town situated within 25 miles of London and consequently a very high proportion of the residents find employment in London.

A total of 1,947 acres comprises common and open spaces and there are many recreation grounds to provide open air facilities for the children and adults. In the 34-acre Woking Park there is in addition to normal activities a magnificent open-air swimming pool.

The provision of eight slipper baths during 1949 in a building conveniently situated for the purpose proved a welcome addition to the amenities of the town and has been well patronised. During the year 3,900 men and 950 women took advantage of the available facilities.

Unemployment amongst Woking residents is somewhat higher than during 1949.

Classification	Dec. 31st 1946	Dec. 31st 1947	Dec. 31st 1948	Dec. 31st 1949	Dec. 31st 1950
Male Adults ..	47	121	123	96	147
Male Juveniles ..	8	7	17	13	10
Female Adults ..	33	43	60	44	55
Female Juveniles ..	5	6	16	13	34
Totals	93	177	216	166	246

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1950

Live Births:—				Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	..	..	..	636	338	298
Illegitimate	..	..	..	37	20	17
				Birth Rate, 13·55		
Still-births	..	..	..	14	9	5
				Rate per 1,000 total births, 20·38		
Deaths	..	..	..	524	273	251
				Death Rate, 10·34		

The crude birth and death rates for Woking are, strictly speaking, not comparable with the figures for England and Wales. In order to arrive at correct figures the Registrar General has introduced comparability factors. These factors for Woking are ·98 and ·96 for Births and Deaths respectively, and the above figures have been adjusted accordingly.

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

Rate per 1,000 total
(live and still) births

Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion —

Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	22·29
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	22·01
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	27·03
Deaths from malignant neoplasms (all ages)	..	..	..	100
Deaths from measles (all ages)	..	..	..	1
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	..	..	..	—
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	—

Births

The statistics supplied by the Registrar General during 1950 show that the total number of registered live births allocated to Woking was

Live Births for the Past 10 Years

Year	Number of Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate for England and Wales
1941	702	14·69	14·2
1942	855	18·79	15·8
1943	812	18·58	16·5
1944	807	18·76	17·6
1945	735	17·49	16·1
1946	887	20·59	19·1
1947	865	19·61	20·5
1948	727	15·83	17·9
1949	687	14·89	16·7
1950	673	13·55	15·8

It is of interest to note that the actual number of births which occurred in the Woking U.D. during 1950 was 1,339, although only 673 were credited to Woking. The remainder (being born to women not normally resident in Woking) were transferred to other Districts.

The birth rate has exceeded the death rate for the past 10 years, the natural increment for this year being 149.

673—358 males and 315 females, the birth rate being 13·55 per 1,000 of the population. Of the total number of births 636 were legitimate and 37 illegitimate, or 5·50 per cent of the births.

In addition there were 14 still births, 9 male and 5 female.

Causes of Death during 1950

	Male	Female
All causes	273	251
Tuberculosis, respiratory	13	5
Tuberculosis, other	2	2
Syphilitic disease	1	1
Whooping cough	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	2	—
Measles	1	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	11
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	32	24
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
Diabetes	4	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	20	35
Coronary disease, angina	40	26
Hypertension with heart disease	14	12
Other heart disease	34	46
Other circulatory diseases	3	9
Influenza	1	3
Pneumonia	12	10
Bronchitis	20	6
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	5	7
Hyperplasia of prostate	7	—
Congenital malformations	4	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	25
Motor vehicle accidents	5	1
All other accidents	7	4

Deaths

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 524—273 males and 251 females, equal to a death rate of 10.34 per thousand of the estimated population.

The deaths occurring outside the district of people really belonging to Woking were 149.

The following deaths occurred in Institutions outside the Woking district of people usually resident in Woking:

St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford	..	..	22
St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey	..	..	58
Sanatoria	..	..	3
London Hospitals	..	..	17
Other Hospitals and Institutions	..	..	34

There were 189 deaths within this district of persons not usually resident in Woking, 99 males and 90 females. Of these 72 males and 64 females died at Brookwood Mental Hospital.

Death Rate for the Past Ten Years

Year	Woking Urban District	England and Wales
1941	10.78	12.9
1942	10.81	11.6
1943	10.05	12.1
1944	10.86	11.6
1945	10.80	11.4
1946	10.63	11.5
1947	10.47	12.0
1948	10.58	10.8
1949	9.73	11.7
1950	10.34	11.6

The principal causes of death, excluding those from zymotic diseases, are:—

Malignant neoplasms	..	..	..	100	
Heart disease	..	..	..	172	} 239
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	55	
Other circulatory diseases	..	..	..	12	
Pneumonia	..	..	..	22	} 53
Bronchitis	..	..	..	26	
Other respiratory diseases	..	..	..	5	
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	..	..	..	18	

Malignant Neoplasms

Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms were responsible for 100 deaths or 19·08 per cent of total deaths.

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms

Year	Total Deaths	Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms	Percentage
1941	515	80	15·53
1942	492	81	16·46
1943	439	81	18·45
1944	467	77	16·49
1945	454	67	14·76
1946	458	68	14·85
1947	462	62	13·42
1948	486	93	19·14
1949	488	77	15·77
1950	524	100	19·08

Diseases of the Heart and Circulation

There were 239 deaths due to Heart and Circulation. This figure represents 45·61 per cent of the whole deaths.

Deaths from Heart Disease

Year	Total Deaths	Heart Disease Deaths	Percentage
1941	515	184	35·73
1942	492	186	37·80
1943	439	155	35·31
1944	467	172	35·03
1945	454	174	38·33
1946	458	211	46·07
1947	462	205	44·37
1948	486	230	47·32
1949	488	237	48·56
1950	524	239	45·61

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other Respiratory Diseases

There were 22 deaths due to Pneumonia, 26 to Bronchitis, and 5 to other respiratory diseases. This gives a total of 53 or 10·11 per cent of total deaths.

Year	Total Deaths	Bronchitis, etc., Deaths	Percentage
1941	515	70	13·59
1942	492	47	9·55
1943	439	51	11·62
1944	467	54	11·56
1945	454	59	12·99
1946	458	47	10·26
1947	462	57	12·34
1948	486	40	8·23
1949	488	42	8·61
1950	524	53	10·11

Deaths due to Violence

The figures given below indicate the manner in which Woking residents met their deaths from violence.

Road Traffic deaths	..	..	6
Drowning	..	..	5
Other causes	..	..	6

Infantile Mortality

There were 15 infant deaths during the year (including transferable deaths) giving an Infant Mortality rate of 22·29 per 1,000 live births. The Infantile Death rate for illegitimate children in Woking was 27·03 per 1,000 illegitimate live births.

Infant Mortality Rate for the Past Ten Years

Year	Deaths Under 1 year	Infant Mortality Rate
1941	30	29·01
1942	34	39·76
1943	30	36·95
1944	35	43·37
1945	23	31·29
1946	24	27·06
1947	26	30·06
1948	19	26·13
1949	17	24·74
1950	15	22·29

Year	No. of Deaths under 1 year	No. of Deaths under 2 years due to Diarrhoea and Enteritis	No. of live Births
1941	30	1	1,034
1942	34	2	855
1943	30	—	812
1944	35	4	807
1945	23	1	735
1946	24	—	887
1947	26	4	865
1948	19	1	727
1949	17	—	687
1950	15	—	673

The following tables show the causes of death and ages at death of infants under 1 year.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total No. under 1 month
Prematurity	6	—	—	—	6
Atelectasis	2	—	—	—	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	—	1	—	—	1

Cause of Death	1-3 months	4-6 months	7-9 months	10-12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Primary pneumonia	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital pyloric stenosis	2	—	—	—	2
Tuberculous meningitis	—	1	—	—	1
Morbus cordis	1	—	—	—	1
Strangulated hiatus hernia	1	—	—	—	1

Year 1950

	Rate per 1,000 of population		Annual Death Rate per 1,000 population										Rate per 1,000 live births	
	Live births	Still births	All causes	Typhoid Fever	Small-pox	Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polioenceph.	Pneumonia	Tuberculosis	Whooping cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Infants under 1 year		Diarhoea
England and Wales ..	15·8	0·37	11·6	0·00	0·00	0·02	0·46	0·36	0·01	0·00	0·10	29·8	1·9	
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	17·6	0·45	12·3	0·00	0·00	0·02	0·49	0·42	0·01	0·00	0·09	33·8	2·2	
148 Smaller Towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) ..	16·7	0·38	11·6	0·00	0·00	0·02	0·45	0·33	0·01	0·00	0·10	29·4	2·2	
London Administrative County ..	17·8	0·36	11·8	0·00	0·00	0·01	0·48	0·39	0·01	0·00	0·07	26·3	1·0	
WOKING URBAN DISTRICT (Population 48,650) ..	13·55	0·29	10·34	0·00	0·00	0·04	0·45	0·45	0·00	0·00	0·08	22·29	0·00	

The Vital Statistics for Woking as shown above compare very favourably with those for England and Wales and other Smaller Towns.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

Clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.) in the ordinary course of events is sent to various available laboratories for examination.

Samples of milk, water, and ice-cream for bacteriological examination are sent to The Public Health Laboratories, Epsom.

Samples of water for chemical examination are sent to the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London.

(b) Ambulance Facilities

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Ambulance Service is administered by the Surrey County Council.

Ambulances are supplied from:—

Sharrard House, Heathside Road, Woking (Tel. Woking 2295), which is operated directly by the County Council.

The following additional facilities are still available:—

(a) British Red Cross Society, Ambulance Station, Boundary Road, Woking (Tel. Woking 2369), for accident and removal of cases to and from hospitals.

(b) Ottershaw Joint Isolation Hospital Board, Ottershaw (Tel. Ottershaw 327), used for removal of cases of infectious disease to and from the hospital.

(c) Nursing in the Home

County Council Health Visitors undertake home visits required under the various schemes of the Surrey County Council, including Ante-Natal and Post-Natal supervision.

District Nurses who are affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing and the Surrey County Nursing Association, are provided by the Woking District Nursing Association in the parts of the Urban District known as Woking, Old Woking, Horsell, Sutton Green, Mayford Green and Anthony's. During 1950 the number of cases attended was 784 (11,886 visits).

(d) Hospitals

There have been no changes or developments with regard to the hospital facilities in the district. They are as follows:—

Woking and District Victoria Hospital.

Clinic for the treatment of Tuberculosis at Woking Dispensary, Clarence Avenue, Woking.

The Clinics for the treatment of Venereal Diseases situated at Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, and Woking Victoria Hospital.

Mental cases are received at the Mental Hospital, Brookwood.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Three cases were reported to the Department during the year. Each of these was visited, but no action was deemed necessary under Section 47 of this Act.

Ottershaw Isolation Hospital

The following table shows the number of cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital during 1950:—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	27 cases
Erysipelas	..	..	..	6 „
Measles	..	..	..	14 „
Mumps	..	..	..	7 „
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	2 „
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	6 „
Gastro-enteritis	..	..	..	5 „
Other Diseases	..	..	..	11 „
				—
Total	..	..	..	78 cases
				==

MATERNITY

Ante-natal and Post-natal Welfare

The excellent Maternity Home in Heathside Road, continued its invaluable service. 54 beds are kept, and during 1950, 1,301 patients were admitted as compared with 1,343 in 1949. 509 patients were admitted from Woking Urban District. Of the total, 416 were delivered by midwives, and 641 by doctors, the average duration of stay being 12·09 days. 266 operations were carried out. 9 Puerperal Pyrexia cases occurred, 4 being in persons admitted from Woking.

Midwives.—The Home is an approved training school for midwives, and 43 nurses were trained and passed the Examinations of the Central Midwives' Board during the year. 2 midwives serve the district and attended 126 cases. The number of visits made totalled 3,278.

Clinics.—Ante-natal Clinics are held every Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Post-natal Clinics are held on the mornings of the 1st, 3rd and 4th Mondays in each month. The County Council hold clinics at the Home every Friday morning, Wednesday afternoons, and 2nd Monday mornings each month. Baby Clinics are held every Monday and Friday afternoons.

Attendances:—

Ante-natal Clinic	4,634
Baby Clinic	3,345
For examination by Specialist ..	1,215

OTHER.—The Woking and District Victoria Hospital admitted 1,510 in-patients. Other attendances were as follows:—

Number of Out-patient attendances ..	10,345
Casualty attendances	13,217
Physiotherapy attendances	24,894
Number of X-ray cases	8,655
and "A.P. Screenings"	2,089

WATER SUPPLY

As described in previous Reports, the water is supplied by the Woking Water Company from its stations at Chertsey, West Horsley, West Clandon, and a supply in bulk by statute from the Guildford Corporation. The West Surrey Water Company supplies the Byfleet area.

The Woking Water Company's mains were extended 9,594 yards in the Urban District during 1950, and those of the West Surrey Water Co. by 300 yards in Oyster Lane, Byfleet.

With few exceptions water is laid on to the interior of the houses.

10 samples of Company water were taken and all were found to be satisfactory both bacteriologically and chemically.

Wells.—Twenty-seven houses are still dependent on shallow wells, numbering 22, for their water supply. Samples of these waters are taken regularly to check their purity. Of the total, 21 houses served by 14 wells could be connected to the mains. The remainder are too remote to make main supply practicable.

Rivers and Streams.—Administration of the Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts is carried out by the Thames Conservancy Board.

Food Poisoning.—Two family outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during the year involving 6 persons.

As is the case throughout the country, there is a general rise in the number of Food Poisoning cases, but there were no deaths however.

The sale of made-up dishes and pies may account for this rise, as it is very difficult to keep these preparations unless in cold storage.

Diphtheria Immunisation

724 children were immunised during the year as shown in the following table:—

School	Number completely immunised
Byfleet C. of E.	202
Monument Hill C. Primary	34
Pyrford C. Primary	7
Church Street C. Primary	58
	301
Pre-School Age Children	423
	724

Diphtheria Immunisation in Relation to Child Population

Number of children at 31st December who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time up to that date

Age at 31/12/50, i.e. born in year.. ..	Under 1 1950	1 1949	2 1948	3 1947	4 1946	5-9 1936-45	10-14 1936-40	TOTAL Under 15
Number Immunised ..	28	308	352	385	365	2,357	3,029	6,824
Estimated mid-year child population, 1950 ..	Children under five					Children 5-14		10,847
	3,795					7,052		

VACCINATION

334 children under 14 years of age, and 137 adults were vaccinated during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

No action was necessary under these Regulations regarding tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SEC. 172

No action was needed for the compulsory removal to Hospital of infectious persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis whose lodging or accommodation prevented the adoption of proper precautions to prevent the spread of infection or who were not taking such precautions.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1950.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1-5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-15	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-25	8	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	5	8	1	—	—	2	—	—
35-45	3	1	1	1	3	—	1	2
45-55	3	1	—	—	6	1	—	—
55-65	4	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
65 and upwards	4	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
Totals ..	28	20	3	3	13	5	2	2

The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year ending 31st December was 54, as will be seen from the following table:—

1. Number notified by General Practitioners 26
2. Number notified by Institutions 17
3. Number transferred to Woking 11

The following table shows the number of cases notified annually since 1941, and the number of deaths which occurred:—

YEAR	NUMBER ON REGISTER				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1941	80	82	35	37	9	8	5	2
1942	90	93	36	41	8	8	2	—
1943	92	97	38	54	10	6	1	4
1944	106	105	43	59	12	8	1	3
1945	109	106	40	48	12	5	1	1
1946	128	114	41	48	9	6	1	1
1947	156	107	41	48	5	6	1	1
1948	157	111	38	46	8	4	—	—
1949	183	109	37	47	7	4	2	—
1950	185	118	37	48	13	5	2	2

Councillors frequently refer to the incidence of tuberculosis in Woking. The above tabulation gives a clear indication of the situation.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—No cases were notified during the year.

Smallpox.—No cases of Smallpox occurred during the year. Frequently contacts of cases occurring on board ship from the East arrive in this District; each case requires visiting and observation.

Pneumonia.—During the past year 14 cases of Pneumonia were notified, and 22 deaths were recorded.

Enteric Fever.—No cases notified.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—There were no cases notified.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the matter being in the hands of the Surrey County Council.

SCHOOLS

Most of the Schools are of modern construction and all have water-closets drained to the sewers.

There is close co-operation with the School Medical Service of the Surrey County Council. The Regulations with respect to exclusion from school of infectious cases and contacts are strictly observed. The Head Teachers of the schools notify the Medical Officer of Health of absences from school of children suffering from any disease or ailment.

SWIMMING POOLS

The Swimming Pool opened in 1935 in the Woking Park continues in popularity with residents and visitors. Its modern filtration, aeration and chlorination plant provides a complete turnover of the 425,000 gallons it contains every 5 hours, and the water is tested for alkalinity and acidity twice daily. Bacteriological examination of the water was regularly carried out, 32 samples being submitted. These all proved to be satisfactory. During 1950, the number of admissions were 77,240 as against 109,529 for the year previous.

There are no privately-owned Swimming Pools open to the public in the district.

RAINFALL (INCHES), 1950

Records taken at Goldsworth Road Depot.

Month	Monthly Totals	Greatest Fall in 24 Hours		Total Number of Raindays	Number of Days with .04 inch or more Rainfall
		Amount	Date		
January	0.72	0.53	31st	7	2
February	4.29	0.94	2nd	19	17
March	0.99	0.28	18th	9	8
April	2.85	0.98	25th	18	16
May	1.54	0.37	25th	10	8
June	1.06	0.42	14th	7	7
July	4.04	0.79	3rd	18	15
August	3.16	0.79	28th	18	15
September	2.78	0.29	14th	21	17
October	0.43	0.15	1st	9	3
November	5.37	0.78	10th	19	15
December	1.76	0.33	31st	16	10
Totals	28.99	0.98 in. on Apr. 25th		171	133

Records taken at Scotland Bridge Depot, Byfleet.

Month	Monthly Totals	Greatest Fall in 24 Hours		Total Number of Raindays	Number of Days with .04 inch or more Rainfall
		Amount	Date		
January	0.84	0.64	31st	5	3
February	4.04	0.88	2nd	17	17
March	0.94	0.28	18th	7	7
April	2.98	0.96	25th	18	16
May	1.52	0.40	25th	8	7
June	0.96	0.38	14th	7	7
July	3.94	0.95	20th	16	15
August	2.71	0.70	30th	16	15
September	2.65	0.41	15th	19	18
October	0.35	0.10	30th	6	5
November	5.14	1.13	20th	18	16
December	1.90	0.36	1st	13	11
Totals	27.97	1.13 in. on Nov. 20th		150	137

Annual Report
of the
Chief Sanitary Inspector
for 1950

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee**

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In recent years any review upon the work of Sanitary Inspectors has inevitably emphasised difficulties and frustration encountered in our endeavours to secure improvement in standards of environmental hygiene. These difficulties of the post-war era do not grow less, but we are beginning to regard them as normal and to re-adjust ourselves and our work accordingly.

In Woking a conscientious effort has been made by the staff to help and assist both owners, occupiers and others even whilst requiring compliance with public health law. This attitude has had the advantage of securing the completion of a substantial amount of essential work in dwelling houses, food premises and elsewhere, in a spirit of reasonableness and co-operation and largely without recourse to statutory action. If extra time and effort has been involved, I believe the results have been a firm justification.

On October 1st the Shops Act, 1950, came into operation, providing a consolidation of existing legislation; as no legislative changes were made no extra duties resulted.

The restoration of the staff to the pre-war figure provided the opportunity to carry out the first complete survey of food premises. Whilst instances were found of food being handled or stored under very undesirable conditions, such cases were the exception rather than the rule. Although improvements were found to be necessary in 51 per cent of the premises visited, many of these were of a minor nature, and it is certain that the standard of food hygiene in Woking bears favourable comparison with elsewhere.

Concerning the cleansing services the year has been one of much interest, the introduction of new vehicles and tractors enabling a study to be made of operating costs and the efficiency of new methods of working. Results so far achieved represent a complete vindication of the new policy of the Council in this respect.

I conclude with an expression of thanks to my own staff and to Chief Officers and staffs of the other Departments of the Council for continued help and co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

A. G. DAVIES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION

The following table is here included in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and is a summary of the inspections made during the year.

(a) Number and Nature of Inspections for 1950:—

Inspections under Housing Act, 1936	..	..	..	47
Inspections of dwellings under Public Health Acts	..			1,064
Inspections of dwellings occupied by applicants for				
Council Houses	..	..	..	135
Enquiries <i>re</i> infectious diseases	..	..	..	284
Inspections of verminous premises	..	..	..	26
Investigations <i>re</i> overcrowding	..	..	..	45
Visits to slaughterhouses	..	..	..	149
Inspection of dairies	..	..	..	69
,, ,, bakehouses	..	..	..	67
,, ,, moveable dwellings	..	..	..	87
,, ,, factories	..	..	..	155
,, ,, food premises	..	..	..	981
,, ,, meat and other foods	..	..	..	141
,, ,, premises where ice cream is manufactured,				
stored or sold	..	..	..	137
,, ,, drains	..	..	..	51
,, ,, premises <i>re</i> defective dustbins	..	..	..	136
Inspections concerning smoke nuisance	..	..	..	16
,, ,, mosquitoes	..	..	..	12
,, ,, Shops Act, 1950 (Section 38)	..			292
,, ,, rodent infestation (by Sanitary				
Inspectors)	..	..	..	371
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	198
Inspections	..	..	..	4,473
Re-inspections	..	..	..	3,261
				7,734

(b) Notices served:—

Number of Preliminary Notices served during the year ..	668
Number of Statutory Notices served	36
1. Under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 75	2
2. Under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 93	32
3. Under Housing Act, 1936, Sec. 9	2

Improvements have been effected by the Sanitary Inspectors as follows:—

Rooms cleansed	67
Wall plaster renewed or repaired	110
Ceiling plaster renewed or repaired	72
Floors repaired	205
Sub-floor space ventilated	1
Doors repaired or provided	21
Window sashes and frames repaired or provided	72
Staircases and stairs renewed or repaired	2
Stoves and grates renewed or repaired	66
Coppers or parts thereof renewed or repaired	4
Sinks renewed or repaired	22
Sills, steps, lintels, arches renewed or repaired	9
Pail and water closets cleansed, provided or repaired	46
R.W.P.s provided or repaired	23
Chimney stacks repaired	15
Drainage opened and cleansed	24
Drainage repaired	26
Yard paving repaired	14
Sanitary dustbins provided	128
Eavesgutters provided or repaired	30
Roofs repaired	83
Pointings renewed	57
Renderings, weathertilings provided	17
Brickwork renewed	11
Dampness remedied other than above	28
Wholesome supply of water provided	1
Defects remedied at:	
Dairies and Milkshops	8
Meat and Food premises	167
Factories	13
Bakehouses	10
Miscellaneous	20
,, ,, samples of milk taken for analysis	134
,, ,, samples of water taken for analysis	86

Improvements effected.—continued.

Number of churn, milk bottle and crockery rinses	..	48
„ „ samples of ice cream taken for analysis	..	83
„ „ samples of other foodstuffs, etc.	..	6
„ „ verminous rooms fumigated, etc.	..	272
„ „ rooms disinfected after cases of disease	..	256

HOUSING

I.—Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year.

- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) and the number of inspections made:—
 - (a) Houses 1,111
 - (b) Inspections 1,111
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925:—
 - (a) Houses 47
 - (b) Inspections 47
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 13
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. 1,073

II.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers		756
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*III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.**(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners (notices served in 1949)	.. ..	6
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	.. ..	—

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.. ..	34
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—		
(a) By owners	.. ..	31
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	.. ..	—

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	.. ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished by owner without recourse to Demolition Orders	.. ..	3
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices of Time and Place at which the question of making a Demolition Order will be considered (Section II (1))	.. ..	13
(4) Number of undertakings to carry out works accepted	.. ..	1
(5) Number of houses rendered fit	.. ..	—
(6) Undertakings cancelled—the works having been carried out	.. ..	—

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	.. ..	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	.. ..	—

IV.—*Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.*

(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	59
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	73
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	314
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	25
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year through re-housing by the Council	43
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	197
(d)	Cases in which dwelling-houses became overcrowded after steps were taken for the abatement of overcrowding	—

FACTORY INSPECTION

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	128	78	4	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	198	77	11	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	—	—	—	—
Total	326	155	15	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	9	9	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ..	3	3	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	19	19	—	6	—

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Number of sites used for parking 2 or more caravans	2
Licences issued during the year under Public Health Act, 1936, Sec. 269	16
Number of licences renewed	13
Estimated number of campers resident at one time	88

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

During the year 12 houses, including 6 Council houses, were found to be infested to varying degrees with bed bugs. The method of disinfestation usually employed is spraying with D.D.T. compounds.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Clean Food Campaigns

During the early part of the year the Council restored the staff of Sanitary Inspectors to the pre-war number. As a consequence of this action it became possible to undertake a detailed survey of all food premises within the Urban District.

Codes of practice applicable to individual trades were prepared and distributed, together with letters of explanation, prior to the inspections. This step is considered to have been the primary factor in producing the unexpected degree of co-operation received from traders generally. Improvements were found to be necessary in 51·4 per cent of the premises visited, and this provided a clear justification of the time and effort given to the work.

Many of these improvements were of a minor character, and the exceptionally bad cases were few in number.

The adoption of the new bye-laws concerning the handling, wrapping and delivery of food represented a decisive step in the vigorous policy of food hygiene adopted by the Council.

Milk Supply

During 1950 routine milk sampling and dairy inspections were carried out, and in the course of the latter work it was found that two distributors had allowed their premises to fall below permissible standards. Notices specifying the works necessary to effect improvement were served upon them and by the close of the year they had been informed that renewal of the licences which they held would be withheld until the required improvements had been made. Experience shows that strict supervision must be maintained over the older type dairy premises in the district, as a minimum of neglect on the part of the occupiers can produce sub-standard conditions.

Empty milk bottles were taken from dairies immediately prior to the bottling process and sent for bacteriological examination; unfortunately a number of the results proved to be unsatisfactory and resulted in the necessity for complete investigations of plant and methods. It is interesting to note that bottles showing a high bacterial count were all, without exception, from small dairies operating without modern plant and equipment. Results of these inspections and the acceptance of the advice offered have produced a marked improvement in subsequent bacteriological examinations.

It will be appreciated that clean milk placed into bottles inadequately cleansed almost certainly fail the methylene blue test whether or not the milk has been pasteurised previously.

In our own area the milk supply is on a reasonably satisfactory basis, and the achievement of a very high standard in methods of

distribution is only hampered by the reluctance, generally speaking, of one or two old-established individual milk traders to adopt modern hygienic methods. By perseverance efforts have been made with some success to break down these prejudices and to convince those concerned of the need for and the advantages to be gained from improved methods.

Seven purveyors hold dealers' licences for the sale of Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised Milk, and 4 for the sale of Sterilised Milk.

In addition, 3 supplementary licences are in force for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk, 3 for Pasteurised Milk and 2 for Sterilised Milk.

Control

During the year 69 inspections were made of dairies and 34 defects were remedied.

One hundred and thirty-four samples were taken from farms, shops and roundsmen for bacteriological examination: 117 Pasteurised Milk, 7 Tuberculin Tested Milk, 2 Accredited Milk, 8 Ordinary Milk. Of the samples taken 13 failed to pass the required tests.

Ice Cream

There are at present in the area only two registered manufacturers of ice cream, and 77 premises are registered for retail sale. Of the manufacturers, one is dealing exclusively in a complete cold mix of a proprietary brand, and the other, although possessing premises and equipment suitable for processing ice cream in accordance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947, is also mainly handling a cold mix product.

A large percentage of the ice cream retailed in the Council's area is of the pre-packed type from reputable manufacturers, and the results of bacteriological sampling are generally very satisfactory. So far as bulk ice cream is concerned, evidence shows that although this is usually of a high standard when delivered by the manufacturer, faulty handling by the retailer has in some instances been the cause of unsatisfactory sample reports. In these cases advice has been given on the importance of hygienic handling of the product and proper care of utensils, with the result that the required improvements have been effected.

Eighty-three samples of ice cream were obtained during the year, of which 51 were classified in Grade I, 13 in Grade II, 15 in Grade III, and 4 in Grade IV.

Meat and Other Foods

There are five licensed private slaughterhouses in the district. These are regularly inspected and all carcasses of animals slaughtered locally are examined.

All shops, stores, vehicles and places where food is prepared are visited regularly to ensure that hygienic standards are maintained.

The total amount of unsound food surrendered during the year was 4 tons 4 cwt 0 qr. 21½ lbs., together with 1,096 eggs and 635 tins of milk.

The amount of food surrendered is made up as follows:—

	T.	C.	Q.	lb.		T.	C.	Q.	lb.
Tinned Meat ..	—	3	2	19¼	Dates ..	—	—	—	10
Tinned Fish ..	—	1	1	5	Poultry ..	—	—	1	7
Tinned Vegetables ..	—	4	2	5½	Sausages ..	—	—	1	2
Tinned Fruit ..	—	3	1	5¾	Flour ..	—	—	1	0
Tinned Soup ..	—	—	1	24	Pudding Mixture ..	—	—	1	1½
Meat ..	—	7	3	27¼	Dried Milk ..	—	3	0	0
Fish ..	—	3	2	7	Chocolate Slices ..	—	—	—	17
Bacon ..	—	—	3	14½	Dried Peas ..	—	8	3	10
Cheese ..	—	—	1	10½	Swedes ..	2	0	2	0
Preserves ..	—	1	1	0¾	Miscellaneous ..	—	—	—	1¾
Cereals ..	—	1	3	9½					
Prunes ..	—	—	2	9¼	Total ..	4	4	0	21½
Figs ..	—	—	3	2					

Also: 1,096 Eggs and 635 Tins of Milk.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	—	—	19	2	172
Number inspected	—	—	19	2	172
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	0·58
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1·74

Adulteration

The administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, is carried out by the Surrey County Council, who have kindly supplied the following list of samples taken during the year in the Woking district.

Articles	Analysed			Adulterated or Irregular			Prose-cutions	Convic-tions
	Formal	In-formal	Total	Formal	In-formal	Total		
Milk	54	—	54	—	—	—	—	—
Confectionery ..	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Flour	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Fruit Lollies ..	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
Ground Almonds	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Marzipan ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Non-alcoholic Wine	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Sausage Meat ..	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Sausages	12	—	12	—	—	—	—	—
Spirits	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Vitamin Fruit Rings	1	1	2	—	1	1	—	—
Totals	80	4	84	—	1	1	—	—

BURIAL OF THE DEAD

Only one funeral was arranged throughout the year.

RODENT AND PEST CONTROL

Two experienced operators are employed and Morris 8 vans are provided for transport and for the carriage of equipment. Up-to-date methods are used both in the destruction of rats and mice and also for fumigation and disinfestation generally.

During the year more than 250 complaints were investigated 167 of which related to rats or mice infestations. In addition, contract work was performed by routine on 69 premises for which payment is received and on 14 Council properties. Sewer treatments were carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The following tabulation shows the prevalence of rats and mice in the district and the control measures adopted during the year.

Other insect pests for which effective treatments were given included flies, cockroaches, beetles, moths, ants, wasps, bees, and fleas.

Type of Property	(i)	(ii)		(iii)		(iv)		(v)		(vi)		(vii)	
		Number of properties in Local Authority's Area						Analysis of Column (iv)					
		in which infestation was						Number infested by					
		Notified by occupier	Otherwise discovered	Recorded (total of (ii) and (iii))		Rats or mice		Major	Minor	Mice only			
Local Authority's Property	39	—	5	5		1		1	4	—			
Dwelling House	11,716	115	37	152		—		—	137	15			
Business Premises	868	11	22	33		—		—	25	8			
Agricultural Property	—	—	2	2		—		—	2	—			
Total	12,623	126	66	192		1		1	168	23			

2. MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

	No. of properties inspected	No. of inspections made	Number of notices served under Section 4		Number of treatments carried out*				Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under Sect. 6 (1) or by informal arrangement		
			Treatments	Works	By arrangement with Occupier	Under Section 5 (1)		Number of blocks	Number of separate occupancies	Surface associated sewers	
						Rats	Mice only				
											Rats	Mice only
Local Authority's Property	41	161	—	—	24	—	—	1	19	—	
Dwelling House ..	400	1,571	—	—	337	39	—	26	162	13	
Business Premises ..	541	1,514	—	—	254	27	—	—	—	—	
Agricultural Property ..	8	39	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	
Total ..	990	3,285	—	—	621	66	—	27	181	13	

* Excluding treatments included under block treatments.

CLEANSING SERVICES

Refuse Collection

The number of bins to be emptied continues to increase gradually year by year, and by the close of the year there were more than 700 properties additional to the 1939 total. The maintenance of a regular weekly service becomes gradually more difficult to accomplish except by means of extra labour and equipment. Steadily rising costs on labour and vehicles have necessitated a constant review of the service in order to counteract at least to some extent the need for additional labour. As part of the policy adopted for this purpose two Dennis Paxit vehicles were put into service in April and proved capable with no staff increase of accomplishing the work previously carried out by three 10 cubic yard side loaders.

Refuse Disposal

All domestic and trade refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping on two sites which provide ample disposal for many years to come. Cost of disposal is comparatively low and the work is very efficiently performed by the use of a Fordson Muledozer.

Salvage

Despite the confusion over waste-paper collection which began in 1949 and continued well into the present year, the Council maintained the collection arrangements from trade premises, and from this source some 267 tons of paper were returned to industry during the year.

The speedier means with which refuse is now dealt reduces the opportunity to recover the full amount of salvageable materials, but a satisfactory arrangement is in force whereby a small but steady income is obtained from this source.

Cesspool Emptying

The maintenance of an adequate service proved impossible until the closing months of the year, as the necessary labour was not available and could not be obtained. Despite the reduced service provided some 20,700 miles were covered in order to remove and dispose of 3,198,000 gallons of sewage, thus giving an indication of the expensive nature of the work of cesspool emptying.

Staff

The staff employed on the cleansing services was as follows:—

General Foreman	..	..	..	1
Collection of refuse	..	..	..	33
Disposal of refuse	..	..	..	2
Salvage	..	..	..	3
Cesspool emptying	..	..	..	6
				45